

1st Annual NASA Project Management Conference

Removing Stumbling Blocks to Developing the Critical Path

March 30 & 31 2004

Presented by
William Paradis

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Can You Relate?

I can not understand these activity descriptions

My File
Won't Open !

I Had That View
Yesterday, Where
Did It Go?



Draw the Schedule
in Pwr Point. Its too hard
to use MS Project

Remember This Guy ?

My Earned Value Looks Wrong,
The % Complete Seems Low.

IBR In 60 Days?,
Ahh!

9000 Activities?
How Can I Manage
This Schedule?

March 2004

Agenda

- **Schedule Development Overview**
 - Developing the Critical Path
- **Keeping the Schedule Simple**
 - Limiting the use of Milestones, Summary Activities, and Constraints
 - View, Table, and Filter Organization
 - Short/Descriptive Activity Names
- **Quickly Displaying MS Project Data**
 - 2 Levels of Schedule Summaries
 - Custom View Filtering
- **Calculating Earned Value**
 - Managing Front & Back Loaded Schedules
 - Calculating Data in MS Project
- **Cool Tricks**
 - Restoring Schedule Database using MS Access
 - Numbering Schedule Data Labels using MS Excel
 - Manipulating Task Descriptions using MS Excel

Schedule Development Overview

Scheduling Dependencies

Design & Build Task

Problem:

Contract 1/15/04	
Design	X
Build Proto-Type	X
Provide Analysis	X
Deliver By:	4/1/05

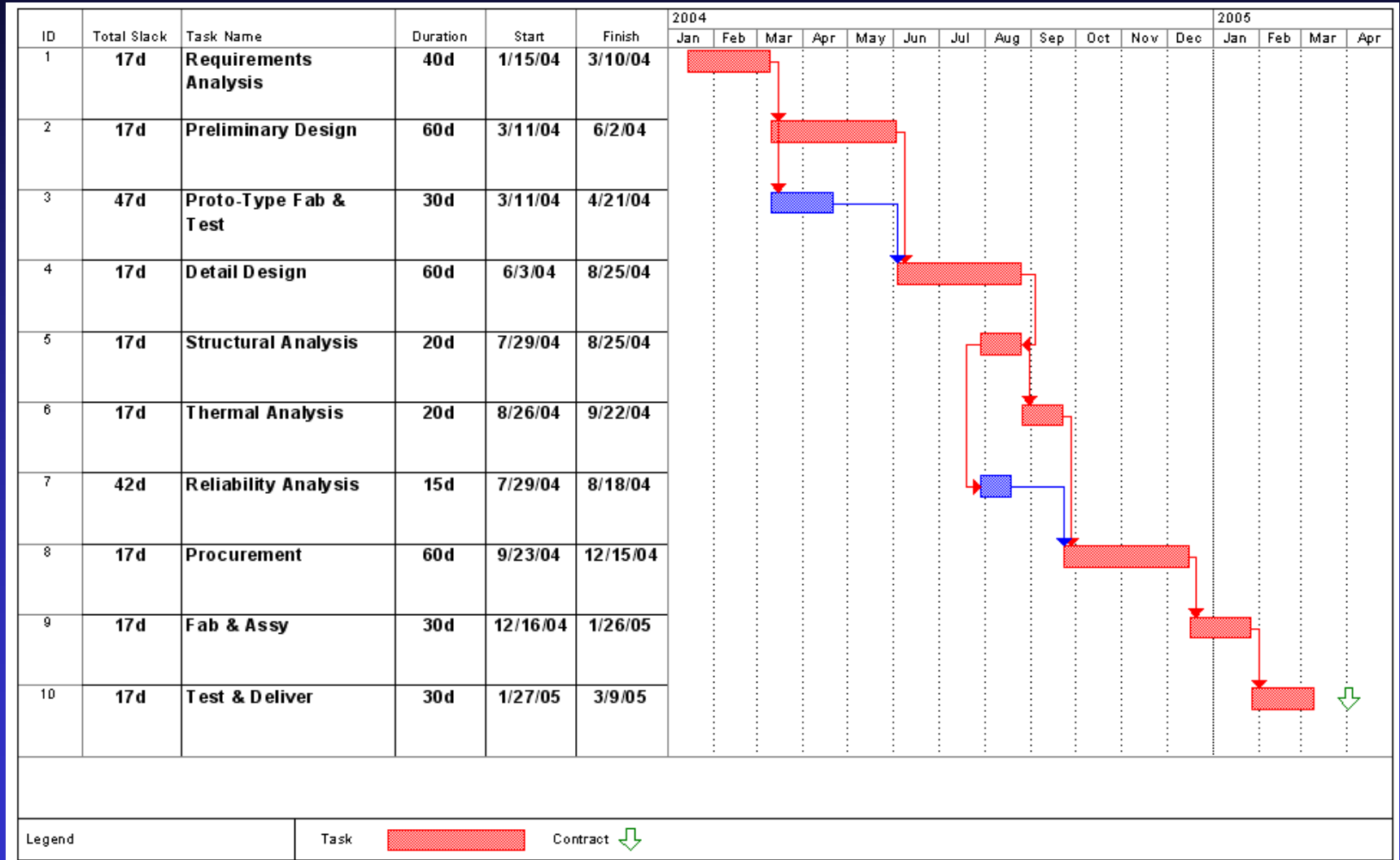
Given:

1. Task Starts on 1/15/04
2. Task Needs to Finish By 4/1/05

Task	Duration
1.0 Requirements Analysis	40 Days
2.0 Preliminary Design	60 Days
3.0 Proto-Type Fab & Test	30 Days
4.0 Detail Design	60 Days
5.0 Thermal Analysis	20 Days
6.0 Structural Analysis	20 Days
7.0 Reliability Analysis	15 Days
8.0 Procurement	60 Days
9.0 Fab & Assy	30 Days
10.0 Test & Deliver	30 Days

Schedule Development Overview Con't

Time Phase and Link Activities



March 2004

Schedule Development Overview

Why do we need Early Warning?

**Course corrections are easier
when you have time to make
small adjustments**

**It's too late when you're this
close to the iceberg!**

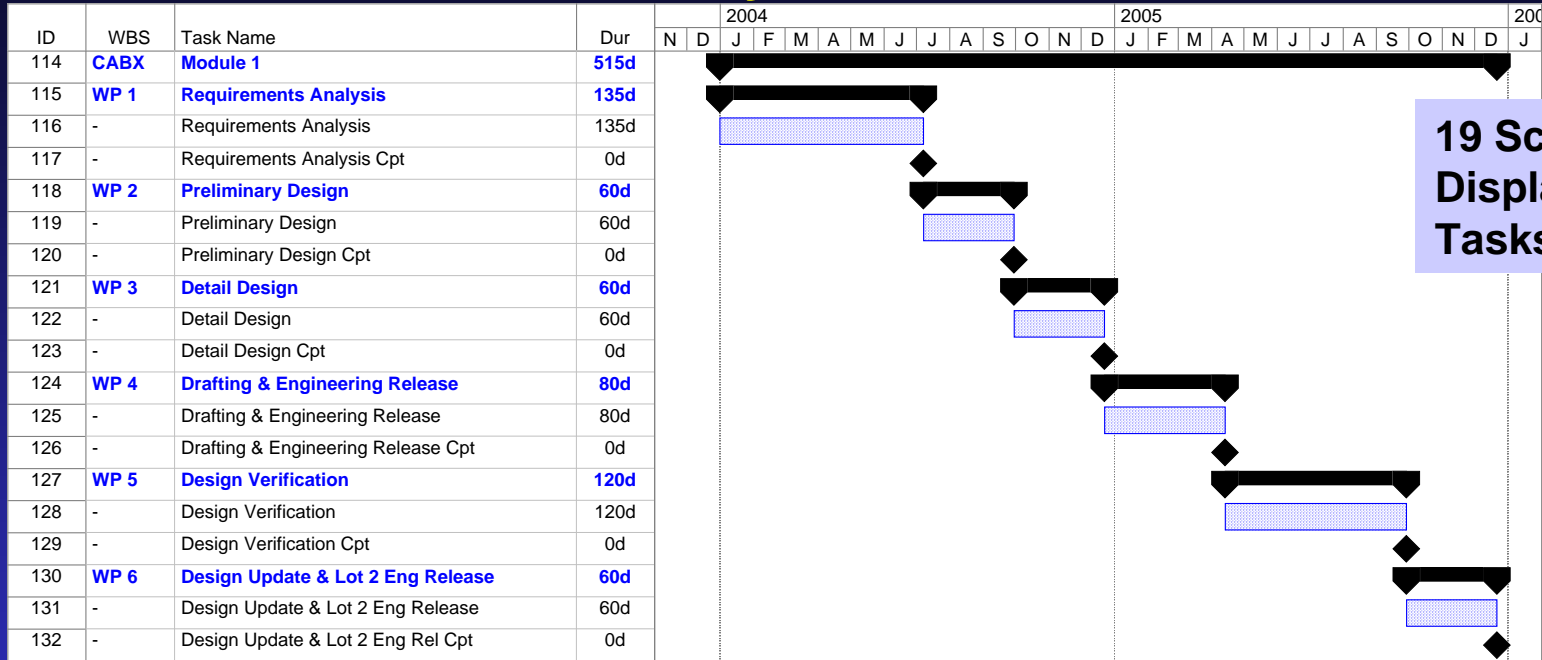


Agenda

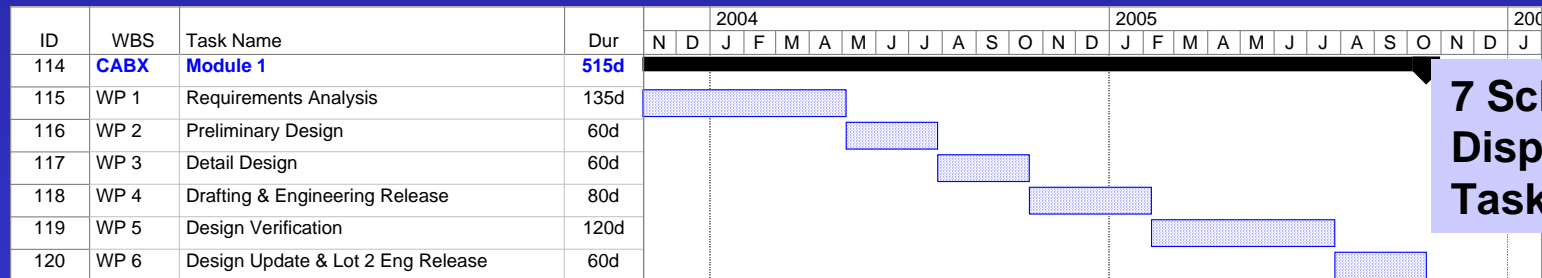
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Keeping the Schedule Simple

Milestones & Summary Activities



19 Schedule Lines to Display 6 Real Work Tasks



7 Schedule Lines to Display 6 Real Work Tasks

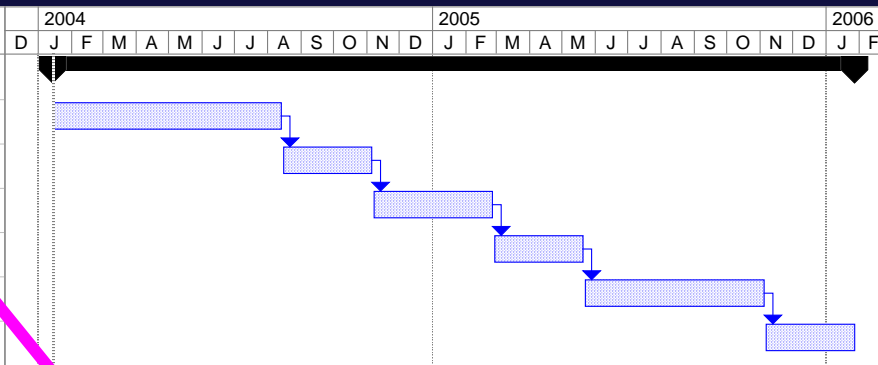
Keeping the Schedule Simple

Schedule Constraints

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Schedule Constraints

ID	Task Name	Dur	Constraint Type	Constraint	Start	Finish	2004	2005	2006
1	Wig Mod 1-Module 1	532d	As Soon As Possible	NA	1/15/04	1/27/06	D	J F M A M J J A S O N D	J F M A M J J A S O N D J F
2	Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis	152d	Finish No Earlier Than	8/13/04	1/15/04	8/13/04			
3	Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design	60d	Finish No Earlier Than	11/5/04	8/16/04	11/5/04			
4	Wig Mod 1-Detail Design	80d	Finish No Earlier Than	1/28/05	11/8/04	2/25/05			
5	Wig Mod 1-Drafting & Engineering Release	60d	Finish No Earlier Than	5/20/05	2/28/05	5/2/05			
6	Wig Mod 1-Design Verification	120d	Finish No Earlier Than	11/4/05	5/23/05	11/4/05			
7	Wig Mod 1-Design Update & Lot 2 Eng Release	60d	Finish No Earlier Than	1/27/06	11/7/05	1/27/06			



Set when manually inserting
Start & Finish dates, many times
Unintentionally

Task Information

General | Predecessors | Resources | Advanced | Notes

Name: Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design Duration: 60d ☐ Estimated

Constrain task

Deadline: NA

Constraint type: **Finish No Earlier Than**

Constraint date: 11/5/04

Task type: **Finish No Earlier Than**

Calendar:

WBS code:

☐ Mark task as milestone

☐ Effort driven

☐ Scheduling ignores resource calendars

Set by the
user

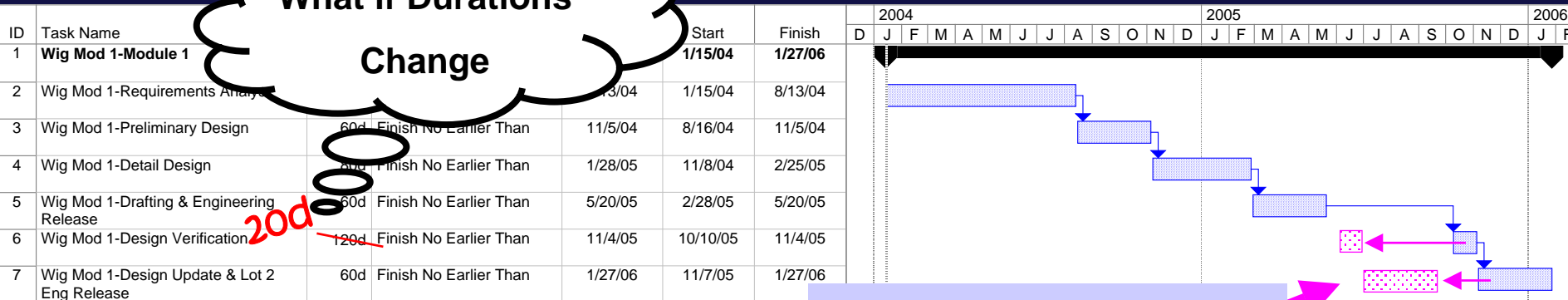


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Keeping the Schedule Simple

Schedule Constraints Con't

What if Durations
Change



Constraint Blocks Activity

- Schedule Tool Can not Calculate Dates
- May Lead to Faulty Critical Path Identification
- Constraints, Sometimes Hard to Spot, Once Set

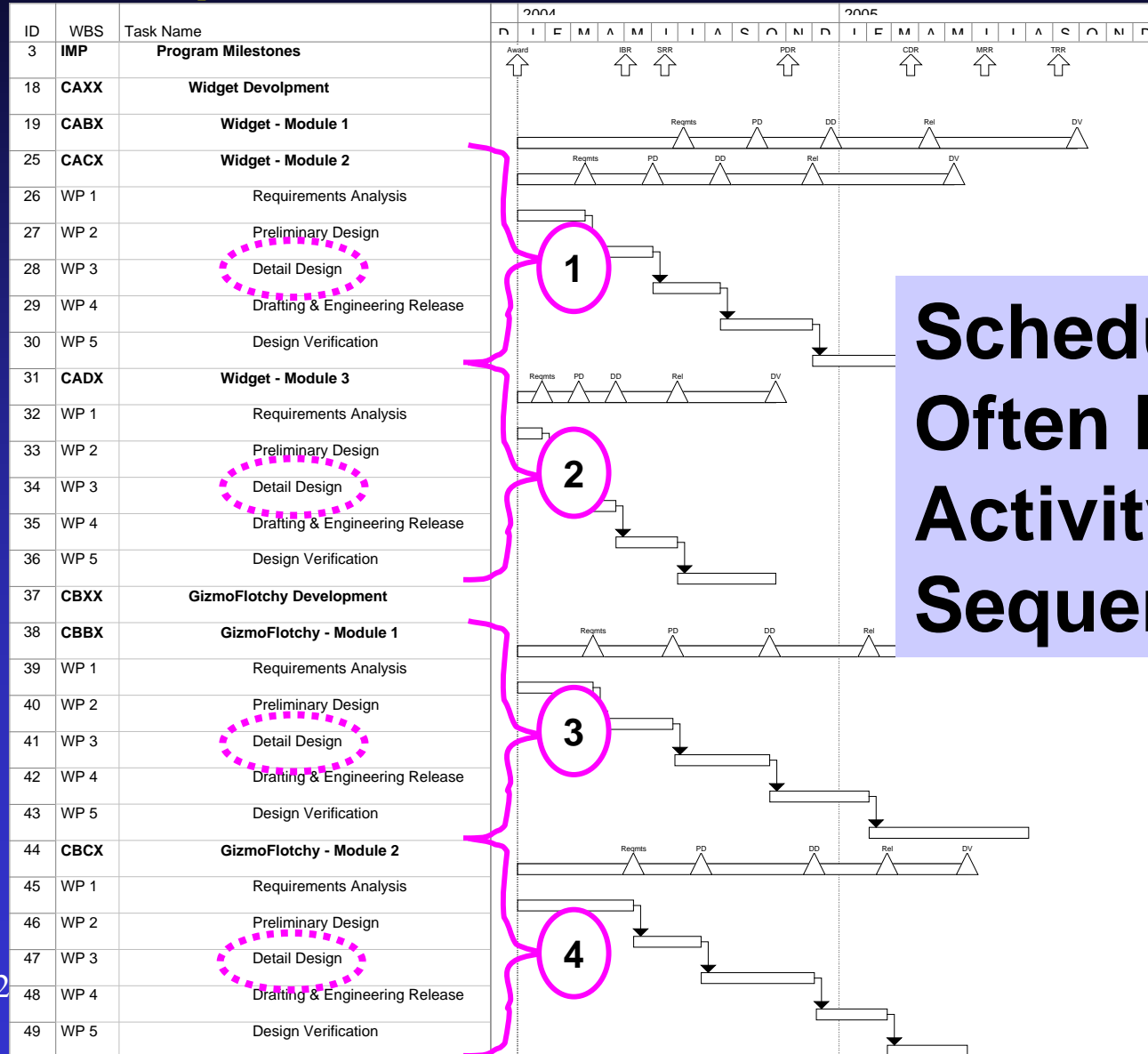
Let The Scheduling Tool Work For You !

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Short/Descriptive Task Names

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Short/Descriptive Task Names



**Schedules
Often Repeat
Activity
Sequence**

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Short/Descriptive Task Names Con't

[illegible]

Look What Can Happen When Detail Design Activities are Selected

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Short/Descriptive Task Names Con't

[illegible]

Maintain Short Descriptive Task Names

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Some Guidelines

- **Limit Milestone Activities**
 - Key dates (PDRs, CDRs, Del Dates etc...)
 - When rolling-up to a summary Activity
- **Limit Summary Activities**
 - Sectional Groupings
 - Work Package Headers
- **Limit the use of constraints (Locked Dates)**
 - Starting Activities.....Start No Earlier Than
 - Contract Dates.....Finish No Later Than
 - Major Milestones.....Must Finish On
- **Keep Task Descriptions Short, but Descriptive**
 - “Prelim Design” -----> Who’s Prelim Design

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Views, Tables, & Filters

Keeping the Schedule Simple

Views, Tables, & Filter Organization

- **Schedule Databases tend to become large and overwhelming to use forcing managers to draw their own POWER POINT Schedules.**
- **View Organization is key to getting program personnel to use the tool.**
- **Data needs to be Manipulated, Sorted, Filtered, and displayed in a usable fashion or it will tend to be ignored.**
- **A Customized “View” will select and sort requested data using a prescribed “Filter”, and display the schedule in a user defined “Table”.**

Keeping the Schedule Simple

View, Table, & Filter Organization Con't

Activity
Selection
(Filter)
&
Sort

ID	Task Name	Dur	Start	Finish	2005												2006											
					J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F			
1	The Big Project	796d	10/29/03	11/15/06																								
2	Program Milestones	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																								
13	Program Mgmt	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																								
84	System Engineering	706d	10/29/03	7/12/06																								
102	Hardware Dev	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																								
103	Widget Dev	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																								
104	Widget Lead	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																								
105	Initial Planning for IBF	60d	1/1/04	3/24/04																								
106	SRR P.O.P.	80d	3/25/04	7/14/04																								
107	PDR P.O.P.	80d	7/15/04	11/3/04																								
108	CDR P.O.P.	80d	11/4/04	2/23/05																								
109	MRR P.O.P.	50d	2/24/05	5/4/05																								
110	TRR P.O.P.	50d	5/5/05	7/13/05																								
111	1st Del P.O.P.	60d	7/14/05	10/5/05																								
112	Lot 1 Dels P.O.P.	100d	10/6/05	2/22/06																								
113	Lot 2 Dels P.O.P.	100d	2/23/06	7/12/06																								

Table

View

View Definition in 'Project1'

Name: 1- SW Intermediate Schedule

Screen: Gantt Chart

Table: 1- SW Intermediate Schedule

Group: No Group

Filter: 1- SW Intermediate Schedule

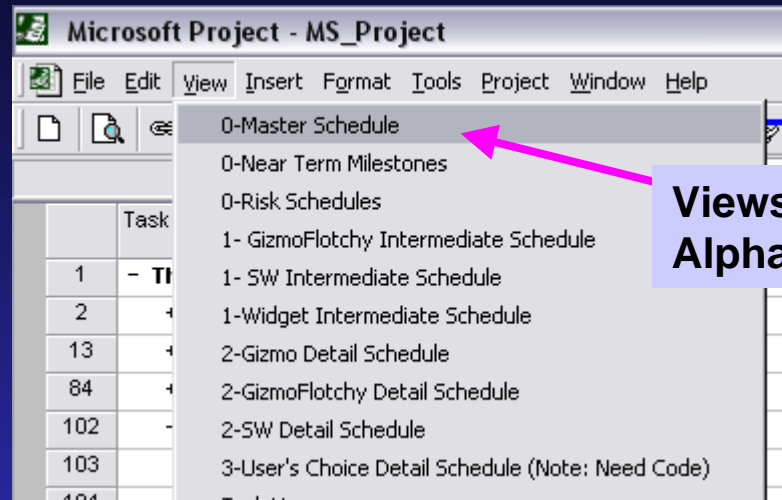
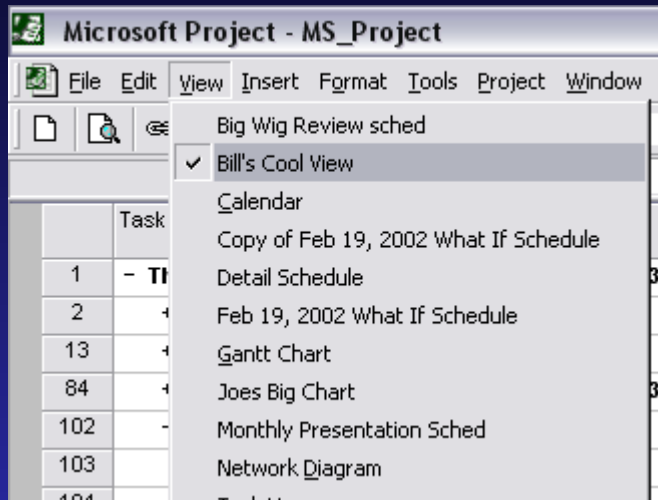
☐ Highlight filter

☒ Show in menu

OK Cancel

Keeping the Schedule Simple

View, Table, & Filter Organization Con't



- **Un-Organized**
- **Confusing View Names**
- **Time is wasted looking for or Recreating Views**

- **Organized**
- **View Names Easy to Understand**
- **Standard Set of Views; Saves Time**

Keeping the Schedule Simple

View, Table, & Filter Organization Con't

- **Use Views to Organize Schedule Data into Useful Schedule Information**
- **Keep Views Simple & Organized**
- **Use Descriptions That are Easy to Understand**
- **Name Associated Filters and Tables the Same as the Views**
- **Create the Templates Views First than Copy and Rename for Detail & Intermediate Schedules**

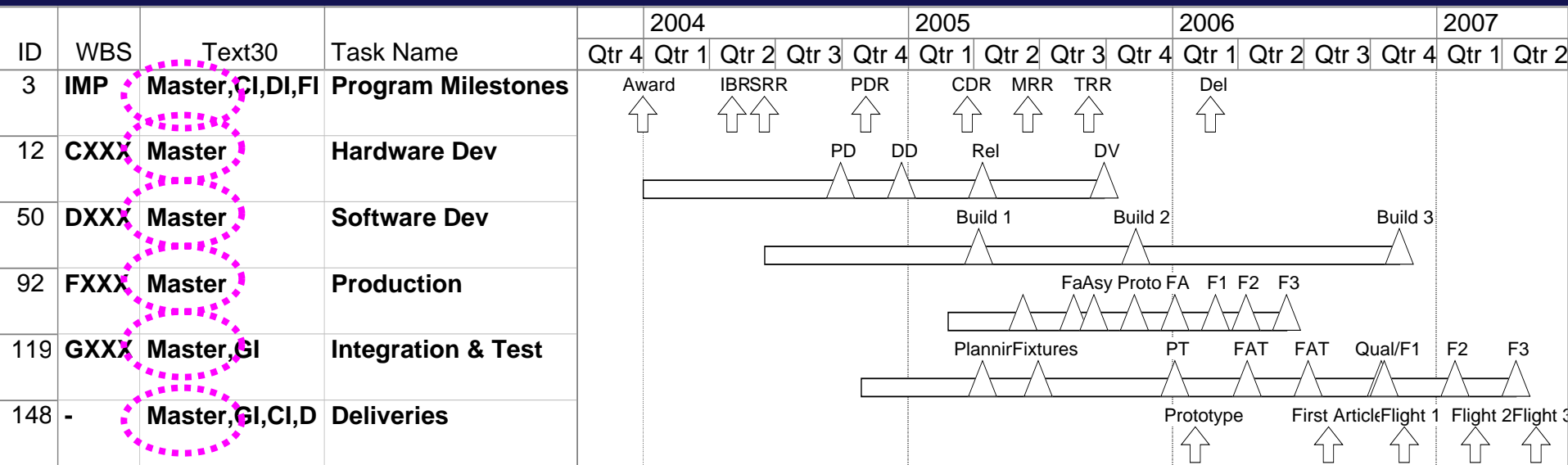
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Quickly Displaying MS Project Data

Top Level Schedules

Master Schedule View



Master Schedule Filter

And/Or	Field Name	Test	Value(s)
	Text30	contains	Master

Quickly Displaying MS Project Data

Intermediate Level Schedules

Intermediate Schedule View

ID	WBS	Text30	Task Name	2004					2005				2006			
				Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	
3	IMP	Master, CI, DI, FI	Program Milestones	Award		IBR SRR		PDR		CDR	MRR	TRR		Del		
18	CAXX	CI	Widget Devolpment													
19	CABX	CI	Widget - Module 1													
25	CACX	CI	Widget - Module 2													
31	CADX	CI	Widget - Module 3													
37	CBXX	CI	GizmoFlotchy Development													
38	CBBX	CI	GizmoFlotchy - Module 1													
44	CBCX	CI	GizmoFlotchy - Module 2													
148	-	Master, GI, CI, DI, FI	Deliveries											Prototype		First Article

Intermediate Schedule Filter

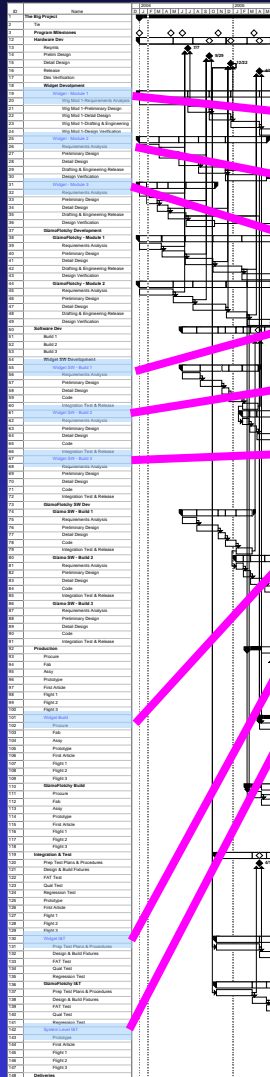
And/Or	Field Name	Test	Value(s)
	Text30	contains	CI

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Quickly Displaying MS Project Data Con't

Custom View Filtering

Custom Schedule View



ID	WBS	Text30	Task Name	2004					2005				2006				2007	
				Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
19	CABX	CI, 2001	Widget - Module 1															
25	CACX	CI, 2001	Widget - Module 2															
31	CADX	CI, 2001	Widget - Module 3															
55	DBAX	DI, 2001	Widget SW - Build															
61	DBBX	DI, 2001	Widget SW - Build															
67	DBCX	DI, 2001	Widget SW - Build															
101	FBXX	FI, 2001	Widget Build															
130	GBXX	GI, 2001	Widget I&T															
142	GDXX	GI, 2001	System Level I&T															

Custom Schedule Filter

Filter Definition in 'MS_Project1'

Name: Custom View Filter ☐ Show in menu

Filter:

And/Or	Field Name	Test	Value(s)
< Select >	Text30	contains	2001

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Calculating Earned Value

Weighted Milestones

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	%											March												
						F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T				
1	Any Ole Task	10 days	2/24/04	3/8/04	10%																							
2	Any Ole Task	10 days	2/24/04	3/8/04	20%																							
3	Any Ole Task	10 days	2/24/04	3/8/04	30%																							
4	Any Ole Task	10 days	2/24/04	3/8/04	40%																							
5	Any Ole Task	10 days	2/24/04	3/8/04	50%																							
6																												
7																												

- MS Project Percent Complete is Based on Duration
- This Works Great if Task is Level Loaded
- What if Activities are Front/Back Loaded?

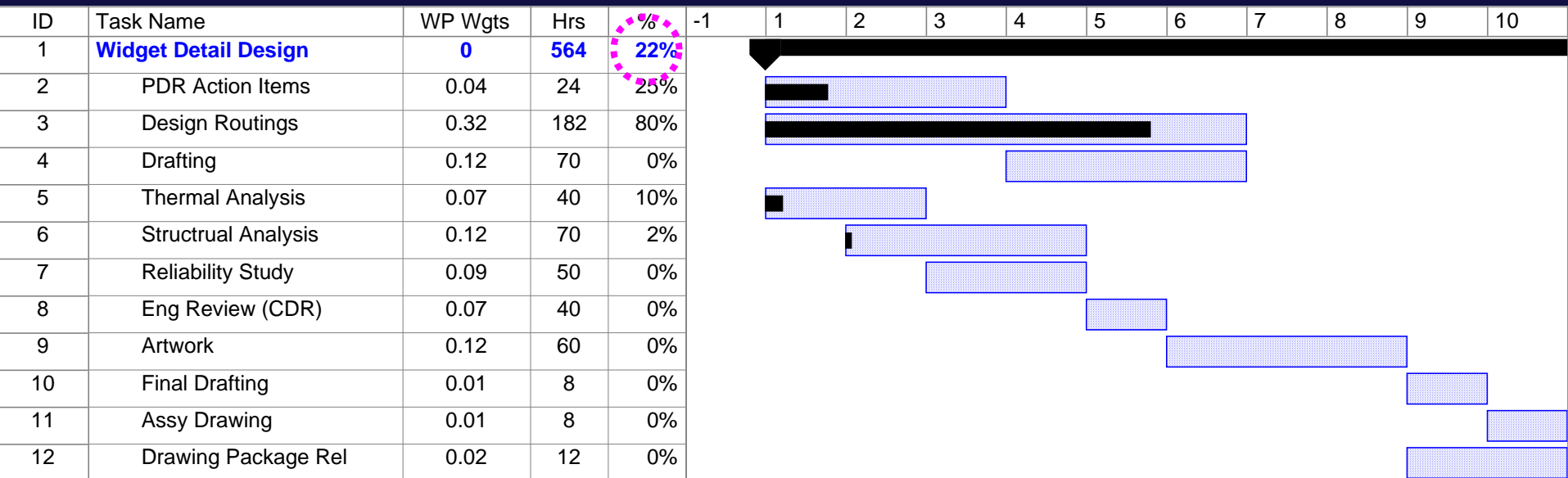
Calculating Earned Value

Weighted Milestones

ID	Task Name	Hours	-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Widget Detail Design	564											
2	PDR Action Items	24	24Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .05%Wgt										
3	Design Routings	182	182Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .32%Wgt										
4	Drafting	70	70Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .12%Wgt										
5	Thermal Analysis	40	40Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .07%Wgt										
6	Structrual Analysis	70	70Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .12%Wgt										
7	Reliability Study	50	50Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .09%Wgt										
8	Eng Review (CDR)	40	40Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .07%Wgt										
9	Artwork	60	60Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .12%Wgt										
10	Final Drafting	8	8Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .01%Wgt										
11	Assy Drawing	8	8Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .01%Wgt										
12	Drawing Package Rel	12	12Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .02%Wgt										

Calculating Earned Value Con't

Progressed Some...



Is 22% Complete

Correct ??

Calculating Earned Value Con't

One Way of Calculating EV

3. Sum Column

1. Copy Paste Data into Excel

Microsoft Excel - Book6

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Task	Wgt	MSP%	EV Equation	Real %C
2	Widget Detail Design	0.00	0.22		0.28
3	PDR Action Items	0.04	0.25	=SUM(B2*C2)	0.01
4	Design Routings	0.32	0.80	=SUM(B3*C3)	0.26
5	Drafting	0.12	0.00	=SUM(B4*C4)	0.00
6	Thermal Analysis	0.07	0.10	=SUM(B5*C5)	0.01
7	Structrual Analysis	0.12	0.02	=SUM(B6*C6)	0.00
8	Reliability Study	0.09	0.00	=SUM(B7*C7)	0.00
9	Eng Review (CDR)	0.07	0.00	=SUM(B8*C8)	0.00
10	Artwork	0.12	0.00	=SUM(B9*C9)	0.00
11	Final Drafting	0.01	0.00	=SUM(B10*C10)	0.00
12	Assy Drawing	0.01	0.00	=SUM(B11*C11)	0.00
13	Drawing Package Rel	0.02	0.00	=SUM(B12*C12)	0.00
14					

Calculating Earned Value Con't

A Better Way of Calculating EV

1 Click

2 Click

3 Click

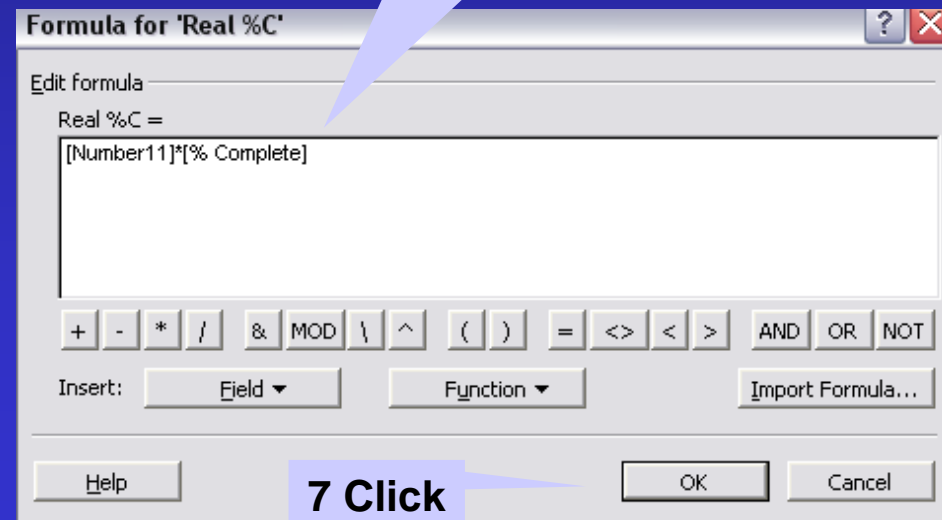
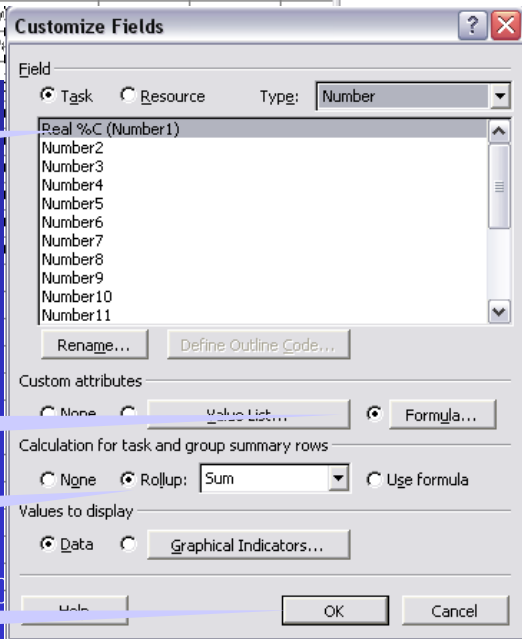
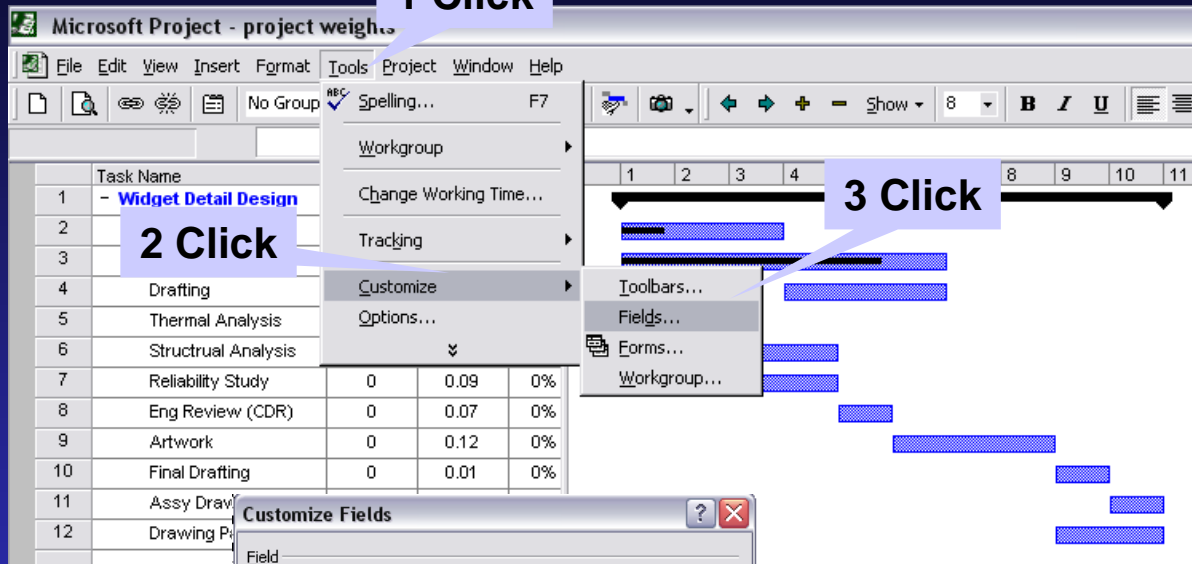
6 Insert Formula

4 Click

5 Click

8 Click

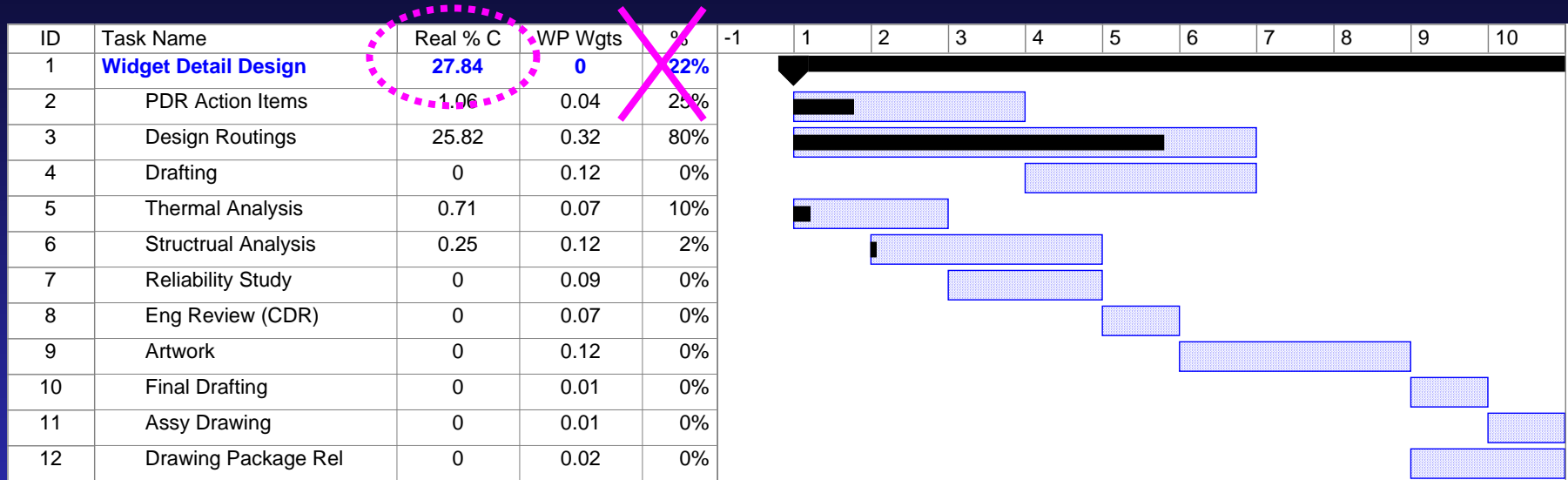
9 Click



7 Click

Calculating Earned Value Con't

The End Result



- MS Project % Complete is Based on Duration Not Weights
- Embedding Equations Directly in MS Project Saves Time and Displays Status More Accurately

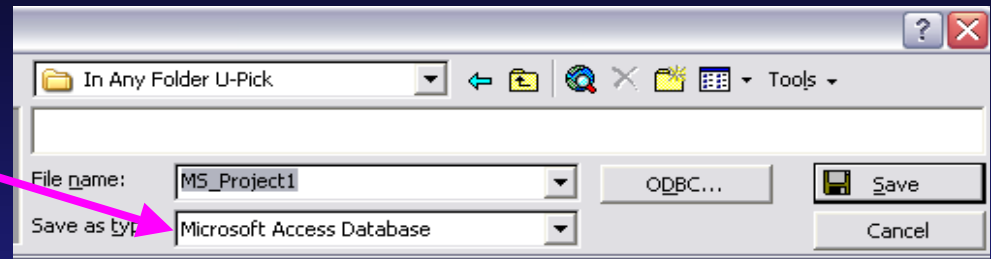
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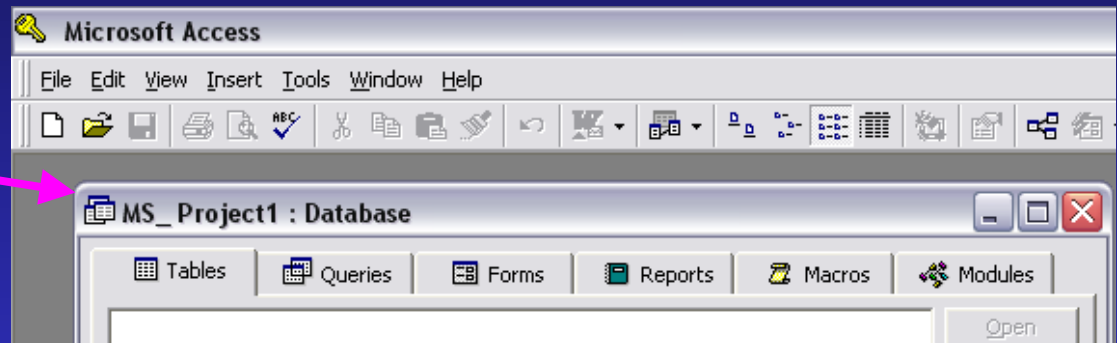
Cool Tricks

Restoring MS Project Database Using MS Access

1. Save Project File As:



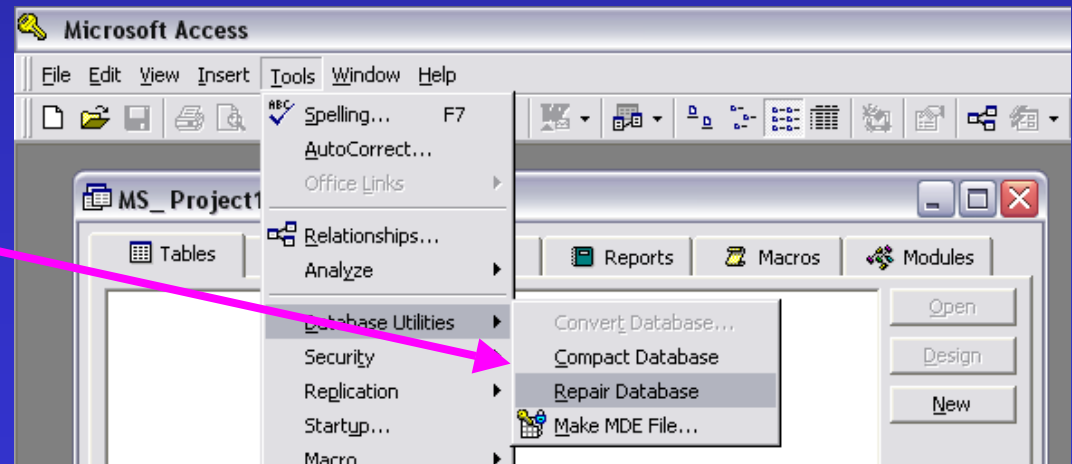
2. Open File in Access



3. Run Database Utilities:

Compact Database &
Repair Database

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Cool Tricks

Numbering Data

ID	IMP	Task Name	Dur	Start	Finish	2004											
						J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1		The Big Project	796d	10/29/03	11/15/06												
2		Program Milestones	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06												
3		Contract Award	0d	1/1/04	1/1/04												
4	IMP01	IBR	0d	3/24/04	3/24/04								◆				
5	IMP02	SRR	0d	7/14/04	7/14/04											◆	
6	IMP03	PDR	0d	11/3/04	11/3/04												◆
7	IMP04	CDR	0d	2/23/05	2/23/05												
8	IMP05	MRR	0d	5/4/05	5/4/05												
9	IMP06	TRR	0d	7/13/05	7/13/05												
10	IMP07	1st Del	0d	10/5/05	10/5/05												
11	IMP08	Lot 1 Del	0d	2/22/06	2/22/06												
12	IMP09	Lot 2 Del	0d	7/12/06	7/12/06												

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Cool Tricks

Numbering Data

1. In Excel, Type in 1st 2 Data Items in Sequence.

2. Hi-light the 1st 2 cells and then drag action button.

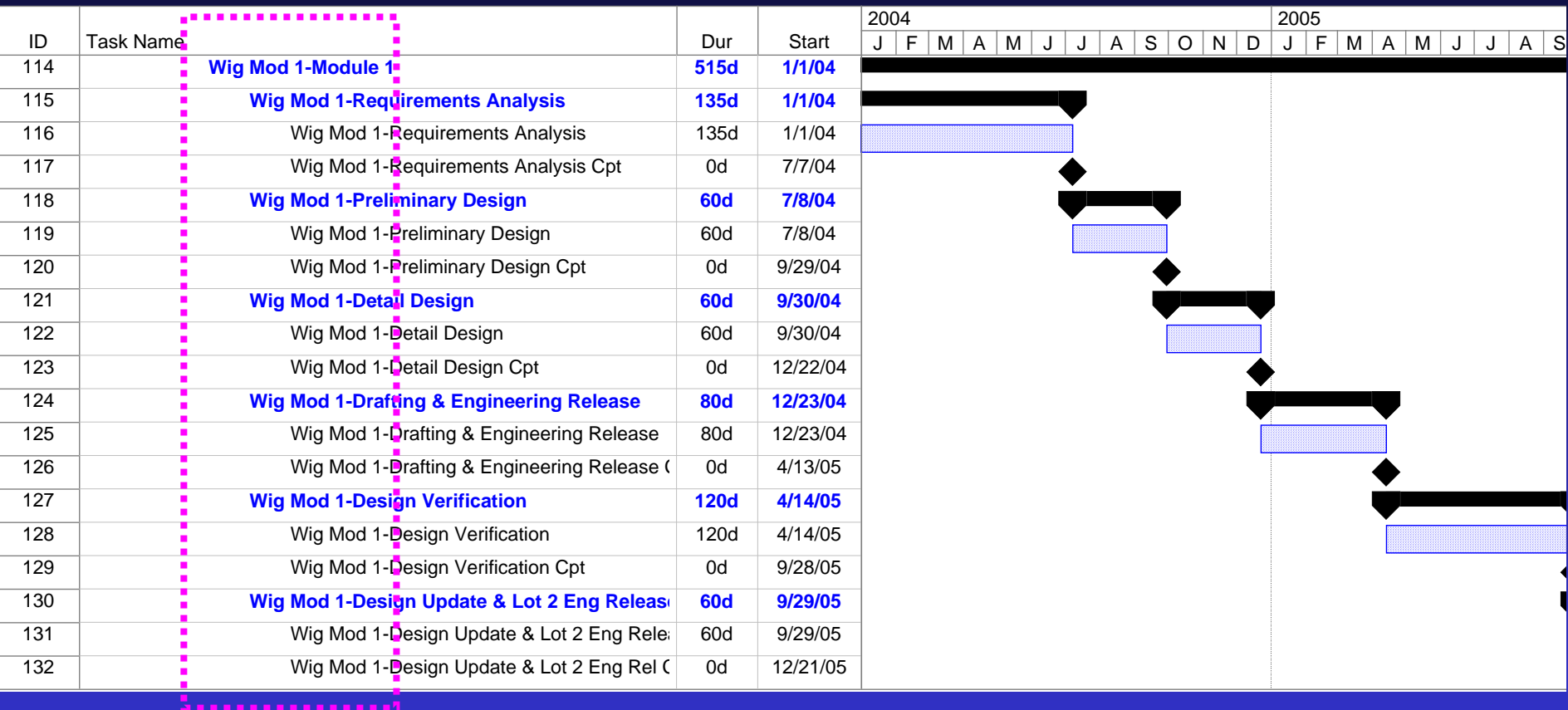
3. Hi-light & Copy

4. Switch to MS Project & Paste into Desired Cells

WBS	Text1	Task Name	Dur
1	0	- The Big Project	796d
2	IMP	- Program Milestones	660d
3	-	Contract Award	0d
4	-	IMP01	0d
5	-	IMP02	0d
6	-	IMP03	0d
7	-	IMP04	0d
8	-	IMP05	0d
9	-	IMP06	0d
10	-	IMP07	0d
11	-	IMP08	0d
12	-	IMP09	0d
13	AXXX	- P	0d
14	AAXX	+ Program Mgmt	660d

Cool Tricks

Manipulating Task Descriptions



Cool Tricks

Manipulating Task Descriptions

Microsoft Project - MS_Project

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Project Window Help

No Group All Tasks

Module 1

	IMP	Task Name
114		- Module 1
115		- Requirements Analysis
116		Requirements Analysis
117	MS	Requirements Analysis
118		- Preliminary Design
119		Preliminary Design
120	MS	Preliminary Design Cpt
121		- Detail Design
122	IMP04	Detail Design
123	MS	Detail Design Cpt

1. Copy Text
From Project To
Excel

Microsoft Excel - Book2

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

B2 = Wig Mod 1-

	A	B	C
1			
2		Wig Mod 1-	Module 1
3			Requirements Analysis
4			Requirements Analysis
5			Requirements Analysis
6			Preliminary Design
7			Preliminary Design
8			Preliminary Design Cpt
9			Detail Design
10			Detail Design
11			Detail Design Cpt

2. Type Label in
cell next to
copied text.

Microsoft Excel - Book2

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

B2 = Wig Mod 1-

	A	B	C
1			
2		Wig Mod 1-	Module 1
3		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis
4		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis
5		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis Cpt
6		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design
7		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design
8		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design Cpt
9		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design
10		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design
11		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design Cpt

3. Fill Down

Cool Tricks

Manipulating Task Descriptions Con't

Microsoft Excel - Book2

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

Arial 10 B I U \$ % , +.00 -.00

D2 =Concatenate(b2,c2)

	A	B	C	D
1				
2		Wig Mod 1-	Module 1	=Concatenate(b2,c2)
3		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis	
4		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis	
5		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis	
6		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design	
7		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design	
8		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design	
9		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design	
10		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design	
11		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design Cpt	

4. Enter Concatenation Formula

Microsoft Excel - Book2

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

Arial 10 B I U \$ % , +.00 -.00

D2 =CONCATENATE(B2,C2)

	A	B	C	D
1				
2		Wig Mod 1-	Module 1	Wig Mod 1-Module 1
3		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis	
4		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis	
5		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis Cpt	
6		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design	
7		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design	
8		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design Cpt	
9		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design	
10		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design	
11		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design Cpt	

Cool Tricks

Manipulating Task Descriptions Con't

Microsoft Excel - Book2

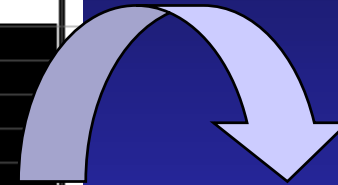
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

Arial 10 B I U

D2 =CONCATENATE(B2,C2)

	A	B	C	D
1				
2		Wig Mod 1-	Module 1	Wig Mod 1-Module 1
3		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis	Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis
4		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis	Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis
5		Wig Mod 1-	Requirements Analysis Cpt	Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis Cpt
6		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design	Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design
7		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design	Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design
8		Wig Mod 1-	Preliminary Design Cpt	Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design Cpt
9		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design	Wig Mod 1-Detail Design
10		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design	Wig Mod 1-Detail Design
11		Wig Mod 1-	Detail Design Cpt	Wig Mod 1-Detail Design Cpt

5. Fill Down



6. Hi-light & Copy/Paste Back into Project File

Microsoft Project - MS_Project

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Project Window Help

No Group All Tasks

GizmoFlotchy Dev

	Task Name	Dur
114	- Wig Mod 1-Module 1	515d
115	- Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis	135d
116	Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis	135d
117	Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis Cpt	0d
118	- Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design	60d
119	Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design	60d
120	Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design Cpt	0d
121	- Wig Mod 1-Detail Design	60d
122	Wig Mod 1-Detail Design	60d
123	Wig Mod 1-Detail Design Cpt	0d

1st Annual NASA Project Management Conference

The End

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Good Practice

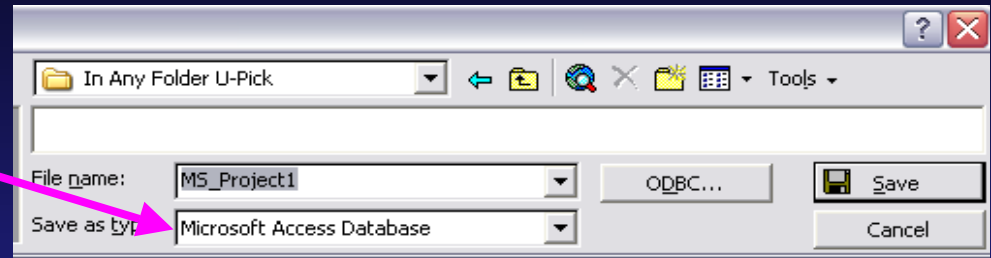
Restoring MS Project Database Using MS Access

- **Like Other Databases, Corruption Happens When Least Expected.**
- **Back Up Files Regularly**
- **It Might Help to Use MS Access Compact & Repair Utility... No Guarantees**

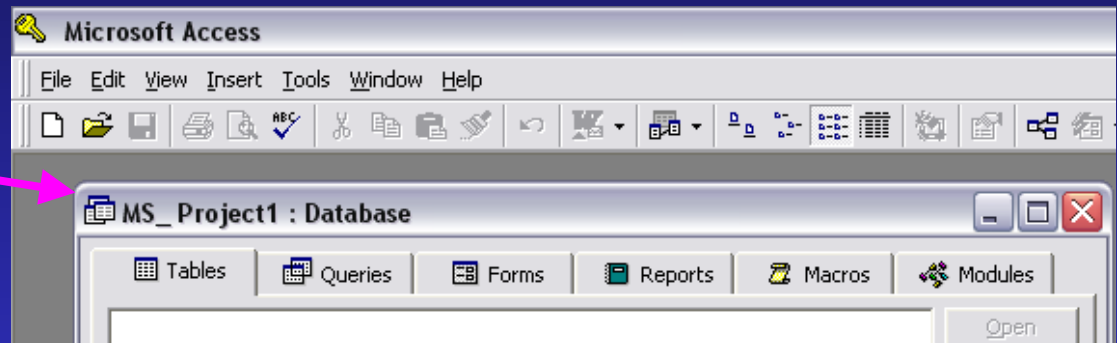
Good Practice

Restoring MS Project Database Using MS Access

1. Save Project File As:



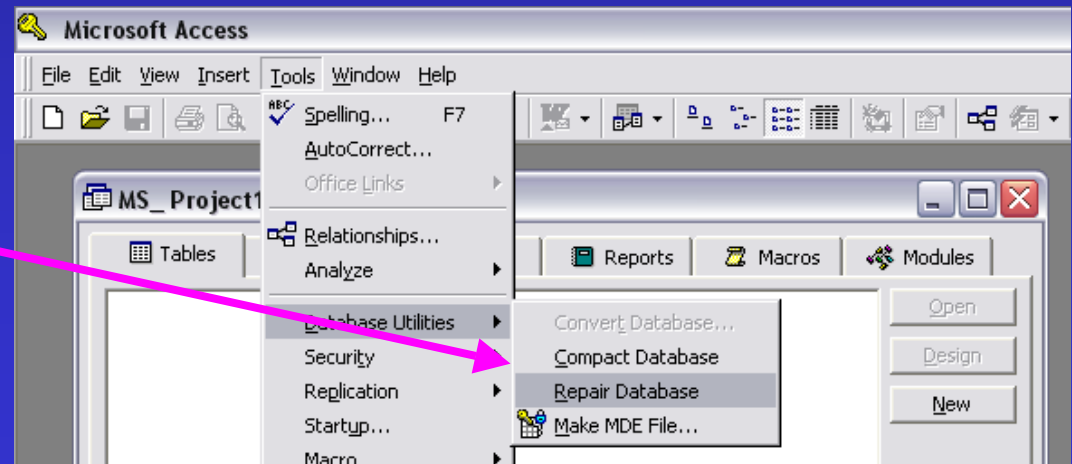
2. Open File in Access



3. Run Database Utilities:

Compact Database &
Repair Database

March 2004



Good Practice Con't

Restoring MS Project Database Using MS Access

4. Re-open Newly Created Database file in MS Project

5. Re-Save File as MS Project Once Again.

Microsoft Project - MS_Project1

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Project Window Help

No Group 0- Master Schedule

Widget - Module 1

	WBS	Task Name	Dur	Start	Finish	2004
3	IMP	+ Program Milestones	560d	1/1/04	2/22/06	Qtr 4 Qtr 1 Qtr 2 Qtr 3
12	CXXX	- Hardware Dev	455d	1/1/04	9/28/05	Award IB RSRR PD
13	1.3.1	Reqmts	0d	7/7/04	7/7/04	
14	1.3.2	Prelim Design	0d	9/29/04	9/29/04	
15	1.3.3	HW Detail Design MS	0d	12/22/04	12/22/04	
16	1.3.4	Release	0d	4/13/05	4/13/05	
17	1.3.5	Des Verification	0d	9/28/05	9/28/05	
18	CAXX	- Widget Devolpment	455d	1/1/04	9/28/05	
19	CABX	- Widget - Module 1	455d	1/1/04	9/28/05	
20	WP	Wig Mod 1-Requirements Analysis	135d	1/1/04	7/7/04	
21	WP	Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design	60d	7/8/04	9/29/04	
22	WP	Wig Mod 1-Detail Design	60d	9/30/04	12/22/04	
23	WP	Wig Mod 1-Drafting & Engineering Re	80d	12/23/04	4/13/05	
24	WP	Wig Mod 1-Design Verification	120d	4/14/05	9/28/05	
25	CACX	- Widget - Module 2	355d	1/1/04	5/11/05	

0-Master Schedule